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SENATE BILL 729

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA
1978 TO PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY FOR TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE
LOTTERY TUITION FUND FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING HOME SCHOOL
EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED- - CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. - -

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute
of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university,
western New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico,

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1 New Mexico highlands university and northern New Mexico state
2 school shall award tuition scholarships for qualified resident
3 students attending their respective institutions and branches
4 of those institutions.

5 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C of this
6 section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this section
7 shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
8 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
9 public or accredited private New Mexico high school [~~or~~], upon
10 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma or upon completing a
11 home school education program, are accepted for entrance to
12 and attend one of the state educational institutions set forth
13 in this section or one of the branches of those institutions.
14 Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up to four
15 consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
16 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
17 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
18 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
19 scale during his first semester of full-time enrollment.

20 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
21 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
22 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
23 public or accredited private New Mexico high school [~~or~~], upon
24 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma or upon completing a
25 home school education program, attend a two-year public post-

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1 secondary educational institution in New Mexico and who, upon
2 the completion of that curriculum or at the end of two years,
3 whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-secondary
4 state educational institutions set forth in this section.
5 Those students shall be eligible for a tuition scholarship for
6 two consecutive years, provided that those students maintain
7 residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade-point average of 2.5
8 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the institution full time
9 during the regular academic year.

10 D. The commission on higher education shall
11 prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
12 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
13 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
14 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a
15 uniform availability of the resident student tuition
16 scholarships. "